(c) whether heavy siltation over the last five years has made the river change its course; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to help the State to save the villages and their crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Flood Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Government of Orissa has informed that they are aware of the fact regarding the problem of villages on the bank of Kharasrota river and the Kharasrota river is posing danger to the villagers at 29 locations in its deltaic area for which the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of State Flood Control Board has cleared project proposals costing Rs. 254.25 lakh. As further informed that though the bank of the river Kharasrota has been eroded at some places and also siltation has occurred, the course of the river has not been changed. The protection measures at one location at Siko have been taken by the State Government and we have been informed by the State Government that further protection measures shall be taken up by them subject to availability of funds.

Accumulation of water in the Ganga basin

†759. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional water accumulates in Ganga river basin during the rainy season;

(b) if so, the quantum of such additional water;

(c) whether it is also a fact that large area of dry land can be made fertile by mixing this additional water in Cauvery river water; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the estimated area of land which can be made fertile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) As most of the annual rainfall occurs during 90 to 100 days of monsoon season in intense spells, this results in generation of large quantity of water in the Ganga river basin during the rainy season. In 1980 the Ministry of Water Resources (then known as the Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisage inter-linkages among Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers of transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous Society to carry out water balance and feasibility studies for the National Perspective Plan. Himayalan Rivers Development Component envisages construction of storage reservoirs on the main Ganga and the Brahmaputra and their principal tributaries in India and Nepal alongwith inter-linking canal system to transfer surplus flows of the eastern tributaries of Ganga to the west, apart from linking of the main Brahmaputra with the Ganga. As per the pre-feasibility studies carried out by NWDA about 98 Billion Cubic Meter of water is available for diversion to the water deficit areas from the tributaries of Ganga namely, Kosi, Sarda, Ghagra and Gandak as well as from main Ganga at Chunar. The Peninsular River Development Component *inter alia* provides for inter-linking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery. The surplus waters available in Mahanadi and Godavari as also from the tributaries of Brahmaputra *via* Ganga are proposed to be transferred to Cauvery basin after meeting the requirement of drought prone areas in Krishna and Pennar basins.

Agreement on safety of downstream structures

760. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Soil and Materials Research Station and the Norwegian Geo-technical Institute have entered into an